MARVEL

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WHAT IF...? DARK

CARNAGE

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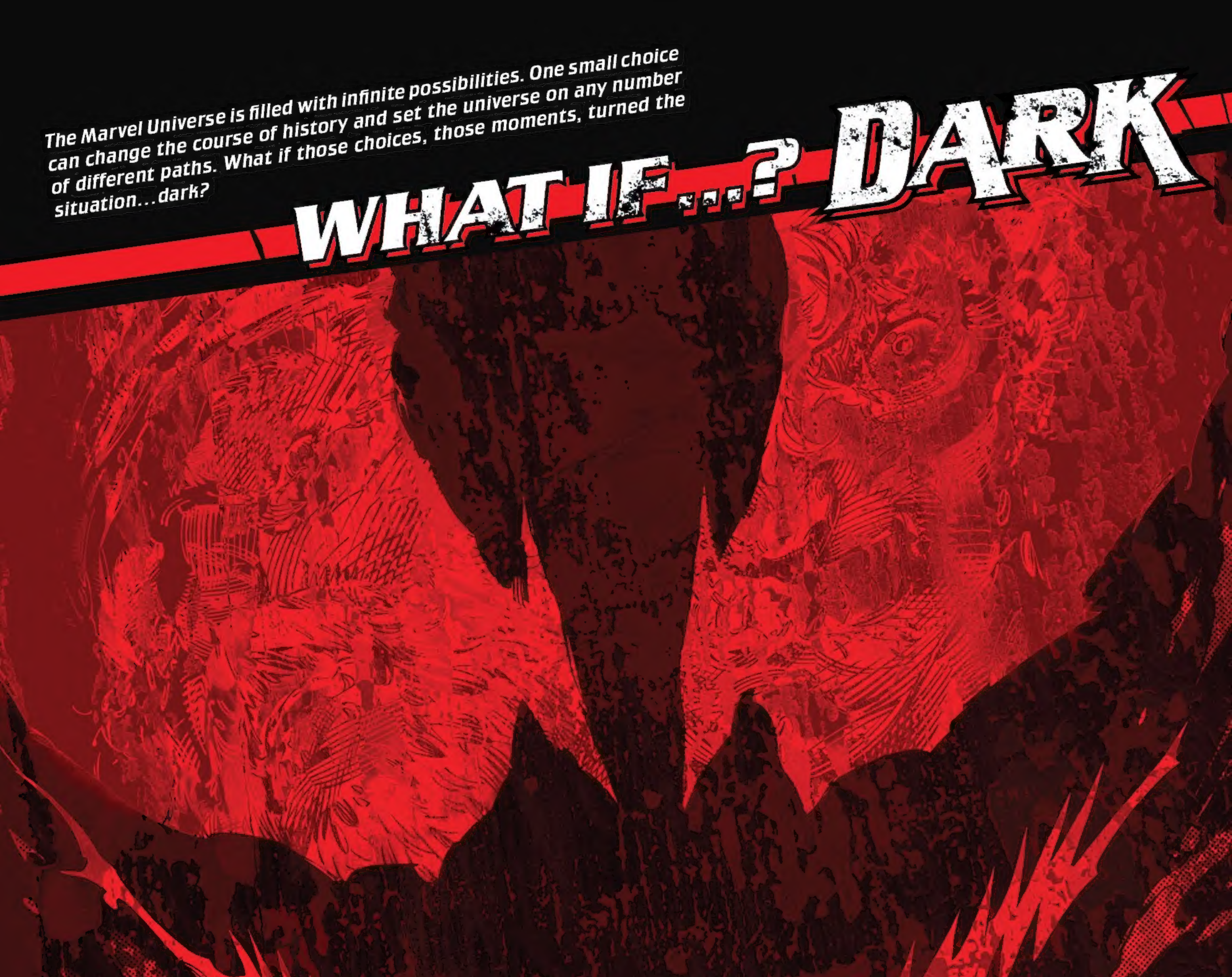
PARENTAL ADVISORY

The Marvel Universe is filled with infinite possibilities. One small choice can change the course of history and set the universe on any number of different paths. What if those choices, those moments, turned the situation...dark?

WHAT IF...? DARK



CARNAGE

***CLETUS KASADY** bonded to the symbiote offspring of **VENOM** and became the murderous villain called **CARNAGE**. After getting captured by the combined efforts of **SPIDER-MAN** and Venom, Carnage is being held inside the **RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE**...*

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RAVENCROFT.

ESCAPEE **CARNAGE** CORNERED IN FACILITY LAUNDRY! DISPATCH REINFORCEMENTS ASAP!

GIVE IT UP, **CLETUS!** THIS IS GETTING YOU **NOWHERE!**

NOWHERE? FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO, I WAS LOCKED UP TIGHT IN A SONIC CONTAINMENT CELL--

--AND **NOW** I'VE GOT A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SUPPLY OF YUMMY **GUARDS' HEADS**...

CHOMP!

...TO BITE OFF!

WASTE HIM!

HE'S TOAST, TRAVIS!

BULLETS DON'T WORK ON SYMBIOTES...

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

...YOU SORRY LOSERS!

THWAM!

HEH-HEH... THIS IS MORE FUN THAN STOMPING ON BABY SEALS!

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

THIS IS TRAVIS MANY HANDS REPORTING TO RAVENCROFT CENTRAL SECURITY CONTROL...

...ESCAPEE HAS FLED TO LOWER BASEMENT LEVELS, FROM WHICH THERE IS LIMITED EGRESS. SEALING ALL EXITS ON LAUNDRY-ROOM FLOOR, AND INITIATING A SWEEP--

WE ARE SENDING MORE GUARDS, DO **NOT** LET **KASADY** ESCAPE THE GROUNDS...

...UNDER **ANY** CIRCUMSTANCES.

NOT A VERY AUSPICIOUS START TO TRAVIS MANY HANDS' APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF SECURITY!

I PROMOTED HIM OUT OF R&D, WHERE HE DEVELOPED UPGRADED WEAPONS AND ORDNANCE FOR SPECIAL CONTAINMENTS.

AM I CLEARED TO DEPLOY THE NEW GROUND-TREMOR OSCILLATORS AND SONIC-PULSE GRENADES, ***MS. PAZZO?***

ALL RECALIBRATED FOR ***TRAUMATIC TONES*** THAT SHUT DOWN SYMBIOTES?

YOU HEARD THE LADY--WE'RE BRINGING UP THE ***BIG GUNS!***

YES, MA'AM.

YOU HAVE THE GREEN LIGHT.

THIS IS ***YOUR*** FAULT, PAZZO! YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN ***TOO MUCH*** LEEWAY ON THE HANDLING OF CARNAGE!

YOU'RE IN CHARGE OVERALL, DR. KAFKA! WHERE WAS ***YOUR*** OVERSIGHT?

THIS IS THE SUB-BASEMENT WHERE THE OLD FURNACES USED TO BE.

THERE *HAS* TO BE A SUMP PUMP OR SOME OTHER MEANS OF *DRAINAGE*--SOME PIPES OR DUCTS THAT CONNECT TO *THE OUTSIDE*--

--BUT *WHERE?*

HE'S *TRAPPED* DOWN HERE! SPREAD OUT AND TAKE HIM DOWN!

YEAH, WELL, THAT WAS--

YOU SAID HE WAS *CORNERED* IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM!

SLASH!

--COUNTING UNHATCHED CHICKENS?

HE GOT *BEHIND* US! GO *FULL AUTO* ON HIM!

SPEK!

PAK!

RAK!

AHA!

KRAK!

TA-TA, CRETINS! YOURS TRULY IS EXITING STAGE LEFT!

SPAK

POP

SKAK

FOLLOW HIM!

ARE YOU NUTS? WHO KNOWS WHAT'S DOWN THERE?

BRATTA TAT TAT!

WHOA! ANOTHER SUB-BASEMENT?

LOOKIN' MONDO ANCIENT TOO!

SPANG!

SPWEE!

CONCUSSION GRENADES SHOULD RAIN ON HIS PARADE!

FIRE IN THE HOLE!

WAIT! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S--

KA-BOOM

OH MAN-- THAT WAS A REAL **BRAIN-RATTLER!**

LET'S SEE WHAT THE **GROUND-TREMOR OSCILLATOR** CAN DO!

NOW WHAT--?

PONK

SKREEEEEEEEEE!

ARRRRRRRRRGH!

"THE OSCILLATOR IS SETTING UP SYMPATHETIC VIBRATIONS IN THE MASONRY..."

...THIS WHOLE SUBBASEMENT IS GOING TO *COLLAPSE!*

RUN!

IT'S A *SUB*-BASEMENT...!

WHAT'S IT GONNA COLLAPSE--

KKKK-RRRR

SOME SORT OF GROTTY ANCIENT **CAVE SYSTEM**...

...AND A **TREE** THAT WAS PROBABLY A SAPLING WHEN THE FIRST **RELIGIOUS CRANKS** AND **SOCIAL MISFITS** ESCAPED HERE FROM THE OLD COUNTRY!

THE DIRT AND ROCKS SURROUNDING IT HAVE SIFTED DOWNWARD INTO THE CAVERNS BELOW--

--THIS TREE HASN'T BEEN EXPOSED LIKE THIS IN **CENTURIES!**

SOMETHING UP THERE IS **GLOWING** LIKE SWAMP FIRE.

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S ENTWINED IN THE TWISTED TREE TRUNK...

WHA--?

IT'S A CORPSE!

AND JUDGING BY THE THREADS, THIS MOOK BIT THE DUST IN THE 1600s.

THIS FREAKY TREE MUST'VE GROWN RIGHT UP THROUGH HIS GRAVE--

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU'RE NOT HIM!!!

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM.

IS THIS IT? IS THIS ALL THAT MADE IT OUT...?

I SAW THE VAULTING COME DOWN ON TOP OF *EVERYBODY* BEHIND US, CHIEF.

MANY HANDS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE--?

THAT WAS *RECKLESS* AND *IRRESPONSIBLE!*

ALL OF RAVENCROFT COULD HAVE COME DOWN ON US!

HOLD ON, PAZZO! *YOU* WERE THE ONE WHO *AUTHORIZED* THE OSCILLATOR AND CONCUSSION GRENADES! *YOU* SHOULD HAVE--

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

I THINK WE WOKE SOMETHING UP DOWN THERE...

SHOOOOOOM

HE PROMISED ME AN ARMY!

WHO PROMISED YOU AN ARMY?

AND WHO ARE YOU?

BUT THEY ARE NOT READY YET!

I AM CORTLAND KASADY, OF COURSE!

AND HE IS THE STRIDER BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE!

HE WHO HOLDS DOMINION IN THE DARK DIMENSION AND WHO BATTLED THE ANCIENT GODS AND SORCERERS SUPREME...

...THE DREAD DORMAMMU!

IN THE NETHER DOMAIN BETWEEN REALITIES.

SOME INSIGNIFICANT LESSER BEING IS INVOKING *MY NAME!*

SOMETHING IS *AMISS!*

SOMEBODY IS MEDDLING WITH THE *TIMESTREAM!*

ONE OF MY *LONG-TERM EFFORTS* THAT HAS BEEN INCUBATING FOR *CENTURIES* HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED!

THIS REQUIRES RIPPING THROUGH THE FABRIC OF SPACE AND TIME...

...TO PERUSE THE SITUATION IN A REALITY I AM *CONSTRAINED* FROM SETTING FOOT IN.

THIS WRETCHED COSMIC BACKWATER KNOWN AS *EARTH.*

CORTLAND KASADY--IT IS NOT YET YOUR TIME!

YOU CANNOT BE MY *PROXY FOOTHOLD* IN THIS WORLD UNTIL ALL IS IN *ALIGNMENT,* AND THE METAMORPHOSIS OF THE CULTISTS IN THE PODS IS COMPLETE!

THE *RIFT* MUST BE *REPAIRED!*

THE *TREE* MUST BE *RESTORED!*

CORTLAND KASADY?

MY INFAMOUS ANCESTOR?

THE FISSURE IS *WIDENING!*

THAT THROBBING *LIGHT* COMING OUT OF IT-- THAT'S NO EARTHLY SPECTRUM!

ARE THOSE *TENTACLES* EMERGING...?

HOLY--!!!

OPEN FIRE!

BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDAB

CARNAGE MUST HAVE *TRIGGERED* SOMETHING DOWN THERE!

TRAVIS, TAKE THE SECURITY TEAM BACK DOWN THERE AND *DEAL WITH IT!*

BRING UP THE *HEAVY HARDWARE*, BUT LAY OFF THE OSCILLATORS AND GRENADES!

IF THE *SPACE-TIME TREE* IS DAMAGED, MY LONG-LAID PLANS FALL APART!

THIS TREE WAS A CUTTING FROM *YGGDRASIL*, GRAFTED TO A SCION OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL FROM EDEN, ALONG WITH A CUTTING FROM THE SACRED OAK OF THE DRUIDS.

THE ROOTS ARE PLANTED IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, AND THE UPPERMOST BRANCHES SPREAD INTO THE FUTURE.

YOUR INTRINSIC *EVIL* NOURISHES IT, KASADY.

AN ARMY YOU WILL LEAD IN THE NAME OF *DREAD DORMAMMU*!

HOO-HA! I DON'T LIKE THIS DORMAMMU MOOK AT ALL!

BUT HIS HEAD IS TOO BIG TO BITE OFF, AND BESIDES, IT'S ON *FIRE*.

THIS TREE WILL ALLOW ME TO BYPASS THE CONTAINMENT SPELLS PUT IN PLACE BY *DR. STRANGE* AND OTHER *SORCERERS SUPREME*!

WHEN THE TREE'S SPACE-TIME POWERS ARE FULLY REALIZED, THE *SPIRAL CANNIBAL CULTISTS* METAMORPHOSING IN THE *PODS* WILL COMPRISE YOUR *ARMY*, CORTLAND!

OTHERS ARE APPROACHING!

KA CHOW

OPEN SEASON DOWN HERE! IF IT *MOVES*, *KILL IT!*

BLOW APART THOSE *PODS!*

SKLATCH!

SKLATCH!

ATTACK THEM, MY LITTLE TENTACLED MINIONS!

TEAR THEM LIMB FROM LIMB!

THERE'S THAT NASTY LITTLE TWERP *CARNAGE!*

BRACKET HIM WITH JACKETED HOLLOW-POINTS!

KRADDA BRADDA

VIP VOB BWEE TZING

TIME FOR ALL GOOD SYMBIOTES TO GET OUT OF DODGE!

MAYBE I CAN FOLLOW THE TREE'S ROOT SYSTEM OUT OF HERE...

"THE FOOLISH CREATURE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT THE ROOTS DESCEND INTO THE PAST!

"IT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE IN THOSE FUNDAMENTAL EVENTS..."

...TO THAT END, I MUST ACCELERATE YOUR TRANSMUTATION, KASADY--

--TO AN APPROPRIATE FORM FOR THE COMMANDER OF MY LEGIONS! MY CARNAGE!

GO BACK TO *1674*, AND DO MY BIDDING!

UNGH!

WHAT IS THIS, ANOTHER CAVE SYSTEM?

WHUMP

THAT'S SOME GNARLY GRAFITTI

ALMOST LOOKS FAMILIAR SOMEHOW--

>SNIFF!<

FIRE UP AHEAD

MEAT COOKING

WHA--?

AN INTRUDER IS VIOLATING OUR SACRED FEAST!

LET'S KILL HIM AND EAT HIM, FIVE HANDS!

IT'S ONE OF THE *POSSESSORS*!

A *MESSENGER* OF THE *ELDER GODS*...

"...HE HAS COME TO BLESS US WITH HIS PRESENCE!

"IF WE ARE WORTHY, HE WILL EAT US, AND WE WILL BE ONE WITH THE *GODS*!"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GIBBERING ABOUT, BUT I DON'T LIKE IT!

THAT'S NO MESSENGER OF THE ELDER GODS!

THAT'S THE *ADVERSARY*!

THE TRUE *POSSESSOR* OF THE *LIVING ABYSS* HAS *RETURNED*!

KILL THE INTRUDER! EAT HIM!

OH MY! COULD THIS BE HOSTILE INTENT?

IT SURE AIN'T THE WELCOME WAGON!

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU BLUEBERRY-LOOKING MOTHER#♦%& ARE THROWBACKS OR COSPLAYERS OR WHAT--

--BUT I BET YOUR HEADS AND ARMS SNAP OFF JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE'S!

HOO-HA!

RIIP!

CHOP!

GA-SHUK

KER-CHOP

YOU'RE IRREPARABLY DAMAGING THE *TIMESTREAM!*

THESE *SPIRAL CULTISTS* ARE MY *CORE FOLLOWERS!*

YEAH, WELL, THEY SURE COME APART AT THE SEAMS PRETTY EASILY!

FARTHER UP THE TIMESTREAM, THEY WILL BE ENCASED IN *PODS* TO BE TRANSMUTED INTO MY ARMY OF *MINIONS!*

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT *TWINKLE-TOES*

TRAVIS MANY HANDS IS UPSTAIRS MACHINE-GUNNING THEM TO SMITHEREENS!

NOW, EXCUSE ME WHILE WE *BITE* YOUR *HEAD OFF!*

CHOMP

SKRIPT

I AM NO HEATHEN--

--I AM *GRAND MARSHAL* OF *DORMAMMU'S LEGIONS!*

CRACK

FINISH HIM OFF!

SO WHAT? I'M THE ALL-HIGH POOBAH.

SKOOL

...OF MAXIMUM BADASSERY!

PAYBACK TIME FOR BEING A BUTT-KISSING FLUNKY TO AN INTERDIMENSIONAL LOSER WITH A CHARBROILER FOR A HEAD!

KRUNK

BASHING YOUR BRAINS OUT ON THE CAVE WALL IS SOOOOO SATISFYING!

KILL THE ADVERSARY!

YOU KNOW WHAT STUPID IS?

IT'S SEEING WHAT'S HAPPENING TO EVERYONE AROUND YOU--

--AND NOT REALIZING YOU'RE NEXT!

SKRANCH

LAST ONE STANDING, FIVE HANDS.

CHOMP!

NOM! NOM!

MORE LIKE "NO HEAD"!

AH, THIS IS ONE FINE NOODLE-WHACKER!

JUST THE VERY THING WE NEED.

...TO GO MEDIEVAL ON THIS NASTY TREE'S ROOT SYSTEM!

HACK & SLASH!

CHOP!

CUT!

HMMMM... MANY HANDS AND FIVE HANDS-- IS THERE A CONNECTION?

WE'D RATHER FIGHT OL' TRAVIS MANY HANDS GOONS THAN THOSE GONZO CULTISTS, ANYWAY!

IF IT'S GOING INTO WITHER-AND-DIE MODE, WE NEED TO GET BACK UPSTAIRS PRONTO!

UH-OH! MR. TREE DIDN'T LIKE THAT!

NO WELCOME COMMITTEE?

WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE--

I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU!

OH, IZZATSO--?

ME, ON THE OTHER HAND--

YOU HAVE BROUGHT *RUINATION* TO MY MAGNIFICENT *PLAN*--

I AM *TOTALLY* THROUGH WITH THIS *FAMILY REUNION!*

--I WILL *CRUSH* YOU LIKE A--

KKKK

SHES

AWW!

DID YOUR WIDDLE TWEE JUST *DIE* AND CRUMBLE INTO *BLACK ASH?*

WE SURE HOPE THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOUR LITTLE *HOLE* INTO OUR WORLD IS GOING TO *COLLAPSE*--

IT *DID!* IT *DID!*

IT WOPPED YOUR WIDDLE HAND WIGHT *OFF!*

KKKKHHSSS...

I AM *NOT PLEASED* WITH YOU, CORTLAND.

YOU COULD HAVE RISEN TO *GREATNESS.*

NOW YOU WILL SUFFER A THOUSAND LIFETIMES OF UNDIMINISHED *AGONY.*

ZZOORRNN!

ZAP HIM GOOD, BOYS!

THESE NEW CONTROLLED-FREQUENCY **SOUND GENERATORS** ARE DOING THE JOB!

BACK AT RAVENCROFT.

AS ARE THESE **ANIMAL CONTROL POLES** WITH **NOOSES** THAT VIBRATE AT THE **PRECISE** SYMBIOTE CONTROL FREQUENCY.

ZZZP

ZZNN

ZASH

BERNARD STALKING WOLF SURE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN THE **CHIEF OF SECURITY** HERE FOR SO LONG!

YOU'RE BERNARD STALKING WOLF?

YOU KNOW THAT, CLETUS. AND YOU KNOW I'M CHIEF OF SECURITY AND BRUTALITY RESEARCH FOR RAVENCROFT.

WHAT HAPPENED TO TRAVIS MANY HANDS?

...DID YOU SAY BRUTALITY RESEARCH?

I'VE BEEN HEAD OF BRUTALITY RESEARCH FOR AS LONG AS YOU'VE BEEN HERE, KASADY.

NOW IT'S TIME, ONCE AGAIN, TO SEPARATE YOU FROM THE SYMBIOTE AND CHOP YOU BOTH UP AND WATCH YOU SLOWLY HEAL.

NNNyyYyyyAAAAAHHHHHH!

HE USUALLY ENJOYS THIS PART...

END.

NEXT

WHAT IF...? DARK TOMB OF DRACULA

SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #1

FOR A CLASSIC TALE DETAILING HOW THINGS PLAYED OUT DIFFERENTLY WITH A CARNAGE OUTBREAK,
SEE THE BEGINNING OF MAXIMUM CARNAGE!

DEATH OF THE VENOMVERSE #1

*TO SEE WHAT CHAOS CARNAGE IS UP TO TODAY -- **ON SALE NOW!***

CARNAGE #1

TO SEE THE FUTURE OF CARNAGE --
ON SALE IN NOVEMBER!

ZONE